

in memo

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

15 FEB 1984

OLL 83-0581

The Honorable Jack Brooks
Chairman
Committee on Government Operations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your 18 January letter to the Director of Central Intelligence requesting information concerning the compliance of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) with the requirements of the General Services Administration (GSA) regulations on recording and listening-in on telephone conversations by federal agencies. Mr. Casey has asked me to respond on his behalf.

As you know, the GSA regulations on recording and listening-in on telephone conversations prohibit such activity except in limited circumstances. In a note immediately following 41 C.F.R. § 101-37.311, however, the GSA regulations expressly exempt authorized intelligence activities from the scope of these regulations. The GSA regulations cited in your letter thus do not apply to the CIA, and the CIA consequently does not maintain any of the documents you requested in your letter.

Although the GSA regulations on recording and listening-in on telephone conversations do not apply to CIA, the CIA has issued its own procedures to protect against abuses in connection with telephone monitoring. These procedures authorize monitoring or recording of telephone conversations by Agency personnel with one party's consent only if conducted for authorized intelligence purposes and with appropriate senior approval. Like the GSA regulations, these procedures permit monitoring or recording of telephone conversations with the consent of all parties to the conversation.

In contrast to the activities of other government agencies, the sensitive intelligence and national security responsibilities of Intelligence Community agencies present

special needs and mandate special treatment. In light of these special needs, no regulatory or legislative action should be undertaken that would adversely affect the efficient and secure conduct of these important functions.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

/s/Clair E. George

Clair E. George
Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

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